TEMPORARY CHURCHES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—I have, within these few days, designed and erected a "Temporary Church" at Kentish Town, particulars of which may be interesting (economically) to your readers. The plan consists of a tower 10 feet square, forming the entrance to two lobbies, each 9 feet by 8 feet, communicating with the nave or choir 60 feet by 30 feet, divided from the side aisle by a range of columns that support an open-framed roof; the side aisles are each 60 feet by 9 feet, thus making the whole width 48 feet. At the end of the nave is the chancel, 30 feet long by 28 feet wide, and terminating with a recessed communion, 15 feet wide by 6 feet deep, the floor of which is raised 18 inches. At the end of one of the aisles is a vestry 8 feet by 6 feet; at the end of the other aisle is the robing-room of the same dimensions, from whence are the steps to the pulpit.

The body of the church receives its light from sixteen clerestory windows of "Vitreous Cloth," the light from which, although subdued in tone, is very brilliant and equally diffused. The walls are formed in compartments, the inside finished with neat oak paper in panels, and presents a quiet appearance well adapted for its intended purpose. The outside panels and the entire of the roof are covered with *Croggon's Patent Asphalted Felt*, being the best non-conductor of heat and cold. The entire of the felt to the roofs, and all the outside wood-work, and the open-framed roof inside are covered with *Jeffery's Patent Marine Glue*, the colour of which, in the wood, has a fine rich effect, and is the most perfect non-absorbent of moisture and non-conductor of the electric fluid.

The church contains sittings for 800 persons, all open seats. The erection of this church will shew, with limited funds, how readily a congregation can be neatly and comfortably accommodated with a suitable place of worship. Buildings of this description can be erected at a cost of about 10*s.* per sitting.

I am, Sir, &c.,

PETER THOMPSON.

Commercial-road, Limehouse, Sept. 1841.

[We trust that all in districts where church accommodation is required, willing benefactors will be found to aid in providing the same; it must be highly advantageous to the *Church Pastorial Aid Society* to call into requisition the services of the builder of this church, who has shewn in the plan all the essentials requisite in the arrangement of Christian worship. We are pleased to see this example, which may be the precursor of many being built in wood, and might call into requisition skilled workmen as framers and carvers, similar to what has been done in the middle-ages.—ED.]

TIMBER—ITS TREATMENT AND USES.

BY JAMES WYLSON.

(*Continued from p.* 455.)

83. BEECH.—This tree, although yielding to the oak in grandeur, dignity, and the picturesque, is nevertheless of other all forest trees the most beautiful, frequently emulating the oak in magnitude, and being a very desirable ornament to demesne lands, and a striking object in distant scenery: it is stately, round-headed, and thick-spreading, affording a very pleasant and refreshing shade, and place of repose for cattle, with graceful pendulous branches, a smooth rind, glossy foliage, and a stem of massive proportions, frequently attaining a hundred feet in height, and the trunk from ten to fifteen in girth: the sorts are the *black* or brown, and the *white;* there are also mentioned the white-American, the dark purple, and that of the iron-coloured leaf, all ornamental; and propagated by grafting on the common sorts: the leaves when mature are of a bright green, ovate in form and thin in texture.

84. It is found native throughout the greater part of Europe, though not extending so far north as Sweden; is abundant in Great Britain, and principally indigenous to the central portion of it, the best being such as have sprung from a chalky, rather rich, and not very damp soil, and a genial southern and sloping situation: it is not, however, fastidious as to soil or situation; and in those parts where the western winds blow keenly, in Devonshire for example, it appears to excel in withstanding their severity: if there be but some portion of calcareous matter present it seems to suffice; and where there is a subsoil of chalk or limestone, similar to the dry calcareous hilly ridges of the central counties, it frequently forms extensive forests. In Hampshire, the covert of Hangerwood consists altogether of it; in Buckinghamshire, in the southern parts, it is particularly abundant; and in Sussex, in the southern range of chalk hills, near Walberton, it is very fine; in Morayshire and Cromarty, large plantations have been made; in Belgium it is employed for fences, being planted young with that view. With respect to the soil for its growth, it is said by some that that which is of a hard and stony nature is more congenial than the richer chalky ground above described; however this may be, it appears that the difference produces such a characteristic variety in the appearance and quality of the wood, as to obtain for it the distinctive appellations above stated, and to lead many to consider them as distinct species; the latter of the two is such as has been grown in a damp situation, and though the tougher, is the inferior and less hard wood, since it loses much of its toughness and strength with the seasoning: it has, however, been stated to be the most durable.

85. The Beech does not reach maturity till from 70 to 100 years old; it then retains its perfection for a similar period, after which it soon goes into rapid decay, rarely reaching the age of 500 years. It is very fruitful, its mast or nuts, which ripen in autumn, having a sweet and oleaginous kernel or seed, pleasant in flavour and not unwholesome; in feudal times they, together with the acorns, used to fatten the vast herds of deer and droves of swine which were the staple food alike of lord and vassal; squirrels, dormice, pigeons, and pheasants, feed freely on them: they are sometimes sold to the oil-miller, who procures from them by expression an oil which is useful for lamps and for other purposes. Young plants are readily raised from the seed, which may be sown from October to February, on beds, with a thin covering of loose soil, care being taken to protect them from field-mice, which would readily devour them. When grown about five or six inches high, the seplants, like other seedlings, are reset out in rows on fresh ground, where they remain until sufficiently advanced to be transferred to their ultimate destinations. The roots of the beech keep near the surface, and are wide-spreading, causing a barrenness in the verdure surrounding the tree.

86. The colour of the wood is an ashy brown, that of the white beech being the lightest, and that of the black beech the darkest in shade; the annual rings have a light and a darker side, just serving to make them visible; but they are throughout their thickness very uniform in texture; the larger transverse septæ are fine, and therefore small in the flower compared with some other woods; the wood has a dry even grain, and is tasteless and inodorous. This tree, although not very suitable for house-carpentry, is, notwithstanding, one of great importance; for although, from its great liability to rot soon from damp, and from being so subject to the destructive inroads of worms whether damp or dry, it is unfitted for beams and other bearing purposes, it is, for piling and such other purposes as keep it continually immersed in water, exceedingly well adapted, being hard, close, strong and tough, and very durable in water; indeed, in that respect it is as good as oak; and it would also endure well when dry, if kept thoroughly so, were it not for the worms which destroy it; and touching these destructionists, it has been suggested that the regularity of the pores in this wood affords a ready facility for infusing into it some bitter decoction for their prevention, and which, as they are almost the only obstacle to its attaining more general use, must be a subject well worthy of attention. It must be observed at the same time, that water-seasoning is a considerable preservative of this timber against worms, being better for that purpose than seasoning in the ordinary way. The best time for felling it is a little after midsummer, and the timber should directly be cut into planks, and then put to steep for about ten days before drying; if the tree be tapped some time before felling, for the purpose of letting out the sap, so much the better. A great supply is brought to the London market in planks and boards.

87. It is extensively used for furniture, tool-handles, turnery, and wheelwrights' work, for all of which its compact grain, smooth surface, and exemption from brittleness, admirably qualify it; it is found useful in the dockyards for wedges and similar purposes; coopers use it for clap-board, and musical instrument makers for sound-boards; it forms good charcoal, the ashes affording a good quantity of potash; the refuse wood is, in the vicinity of large towns, used for billets; like the elm and one or two other woods, it bears well the drift of spikes; and it is susceptible of a fine polish.

88. ALDER.—Of this genus there are said to be eleven species, nine of the number being natives of Europe and two of North America; it is also said to be a native of Asia. It is indigenous to Britain, abounding naturally in soils of every degree of moisture, from damp to marshy, and may be found on the margins of nearly all our streams, as well as by the sides of lakes; it also grows in high and even dry localities, but not with that luxuriance which it exhibits when grown in those moist situations in which it delights; and it seldom thrives, indeed scarcely lives, in soils which are of a chalky or calcareous nature, those of a strong clayey, or dry, burning, gravelly or sandy description being alike uncongenial to its welfare; the swampy places where it flourishes to perfection are such as are of good quality with their moisture. Under the most favourable circumstances, it attains a height of 50 or 60 feet, with a trunk several feet in girth, sometimes possessing a picturesque outline, and generally assimilating to the oak in appearance. It is not generally ranked amongst forest trees, and is seldom cultivated with a view to utility, the object being rather confined to its ornamental qualities, and occupying spots where nothing much better will grow; for the banks of rivers it is exceedingly well calculated, its multiplicity of roots serving to bind them together, and thus reducing the chance of their being carried away by floods.

89. Of what is termed the common alder, there are said to be four varieties, besides the hoary-leaved, oblong-leaved, wave-leaved, glaucous, and their varieties, and some shrubs, which are generally propagated by grafting on the common alder: this has leaves of a roundish jagged form, somewhat glutinous, and downy at the ramifying of their veins beneath. It is easily propagated, by large cuttings planted in spring where the tree is to remain, or by the seeds, which ripen in October. The cones should be gathered dry, thrashed and sifted, the seeds kept in sacks till spring, and sown thick in March or early in April; the ground should be smooth and even, to prevent the seeds being buried too deep. When one year old, the strongest plants should be transferred, and the weaker seedlings left for another season; in the new bed they should be placed four or five inches apart, in lines a foot asunder; in the after-culture the ground should be kept clear of weeds, which rob the young plants of their nourishment. It is of rapid growth when properly situated, and is said to be most profitable when kept as underwood, large poles suitable for the turner, or for piles or planking for bridges, bring a good price; and a considerable bulk of fuel being obtained by cutting over the copse at stated periods.

90. The Alder is another of those timbers of which the principal use, as regards building, is in piling, or any such works as are under water or on marshy ground; and for these purposes it is highly esteemed, on account of its extreme durability when so situated, being, in fact, almost imperishable: when exposed to the weather, however, or to mere damp, it soon rots; and when dry it is very susceptible of engendering worms: when employed in sea-works, it is liable to the pipe-worm, which destroys it with great ease, and fattens in it to its greatest size. The wood is tender, soft, uniform in the grain, and easy to work, and therefore suitable for the carver's art, could if be saturated with some ingredient obnoxious to worms; the roots and knots are valued for cabinet-work, being often beautifully veined; it is applied to turnery and other similar uses; it is also employed in the construction of pumps, sluices, &c., and in roofing and flooring temporary buildings; great quantities are annually felled in the Scottish Highlands for conversion into herring-barrel staves, and the Highlanders also use the bark in dyeing their tartan and other woollen stuffs; the bark,

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